



Office of Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry
San Diego City Council
District 1

For Immediate Release

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Staff report on 101 Ash diverts attention from the real problem – a fatally-flawed lease/purchase agreement

San Diego — Councilmember Barbara Bry today criticized a city staff report on 101 Ash Street, saying “Those responsible for this debacle are trying to divert attention from the lease/purchase agreement that is at the heart of this scandal, while asking taxpayers to pay millions more, without offering a real solution.”

“It’s no coincidence that the Director of Real Estate Assets resigned just before Thursday’s public hearing, nor is it a coincidence that neither Ms. Thompson nor former Deputy Chief Operating Officer Ron Villa will be present to answer questions at Thursday’s council hearing. I am today asking City Attorney Mara Elliott to be present at that hearing to answer questions from the council in person,” said Bry.

“As a businesswoman, I’ve been involved in numerous real estate transactions. I have never witnessed such a tangled web of insider-dealing and failure to properly disclose material facts. At Thursday’s public hearing on this matter, my intention is to ensure all information related to this transaction is made public, and then to propose solutions to relieve city taxpayers of the enormous costs resulting from it,” said Bry.

“I have been questioning this transaction since soon after I joined the City Council. Among the issues I’ve raised are irregularities in the indemnification provisions that relieve the sellers of all future liability, failure to fully and timely disclose those who had an economic interest in the sale, and improper withholding of relevant documents from the public and the city council.

Memos

[4/17 - Immediate Discontinuance of 101 Ash Street Expenditures](#)

[2/27 - 101 Ash Street Lease/Sale Agreement Allegations](#)

[1/21 - Request for Audit of 101 Ash Street](#)

[6/7/19 - Request for Status Update on 101 Ash Street](#)

[3/19/18 - 101 Ash Street Memo](#)

Statements

[4/7 - A Continued Lack of Transparency and Accountability](#)

[1/28 - A Continued Lack of Transparency and Accountability](#)

[11/13/19 - Response to the Mayor’s Five-Year Financial Outlook](#)

Budget

[May 22 - Final Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2021](#)

[May 8 - Alternative Resources Analysis for Fiscal Year 2021 Budget](#)

Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry represents San Diego City Council District 1, which includes the communities of Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and University City.

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